

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2022

Resurrection of Our Lord

Written by Vicar Jared Fischer

Monday April 18

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” (Luke 24:1-5). As foretold by Jesus Himself! Christ has risen. The women in this story feel similar to us as we revel in the majesty of Christ’s redemption for us through His sacrifice. Even when we have these amazing miracles explained to us, it is difficult to not be shocked and surprised when they happen. This doubt that we all have is a part of our faith, everyone has it, and we remind ourselves today that even those that knew Jesus personally had this doubt. Don’t fear the doubt, embrace it! Make it a part of your faith! You are called to prayerfully seek out God and you will. Prayer. “God, grant us clarity to see around us the miracles that you work. We pray for understanding and knowledge of your will so that we may be the tools that carry it out. Amen.”

Tuesday April 19

“Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.” (Luke

24:8-12). The gospel of the Lord is a story that is difficult to believe. Even when those of us who have witnessed the gospel, and trust in it, evangelize to others about it, they must come to the belief themselves. Like the men at the tomb, who were informed about the miracle of Christ (not for the first time!) and still they had to see it for themselves. Evangelism is hard work. Speak the truth of Christ to others and some will come see it for themselves! It is not your obligation to prove God but to invite others to share in what you see and witness inside the church. Prayer. “God, grant us the courage and patience to be evangelical. To help direct and lead people to your word so that by your power they will begin to live in your truth. Amen.”

The Promise Given: Living Out Our Witness

Written by Pastor Matt Henning

Wednesday April 20th

Dancing in the promise

“So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with sound of trumpet.” 2 Samuel 6:12b-15. Think of a time in your own life when you saw a sign from God that brought you into pure joy. What was that sign and why did it give you such joy? David was a great king of Israel who established the authority and place of God in Israel by bringing the ark to Jerusalem. This was a political and religious act yes because of the symbol the ark is to both the faith and the nation of his people. This was also a spiritual sign of hope by a messiah king who danced and celebrated the relationship they have with God through both law and promise. He wore an ephod (the traditional priestly gar-

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ment) as a sign of unity between his kingship and God's law. He danced in joy in response to all that God was doing for him, his nation, and the world. There are times in our own life where we, like David, see signs of God's work in our midst. When was the last time you saw a sign that made you want to dance like King David? What was that sign and why did it bring you so much hope? Prayer: "Mighty God, open our eyes to the signs of your grace all around us today. Inspire us to dance like David sharing your joy with the world around us. Amen."

Thursday April 21 End with Praise

"Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; Praise him according to his surpassing greatness!...Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" Psalm 150: 1-2, 6. This is the very last Psalm in the Book of Psalms and it ends with "Praise" for God and all of God's creation to praise the Lord. In many ways this is a vision of what is to come in the Kingdom of God when all things are brought into God's reign. This psalm reminds us that God is constantly at work in our world so that the world will be brought into his kingdom with praise. It is fitting that the book of Psalms ends with this praise. The question becomes how does knowing that all things will in the end praise God change how we live our lives today, understand events in the world around us, or look toward our futures. When we know that the end is full of love, grace, and praise in the presence of God it transforms the worry, stress, and conflict of our current lives into peace as we look toward God with praise. Trust in both in the work of God and in the power of praise as you continue on your life's journey. It is the last thought the psalmist give to us and it points us toward God's work in our world. Prayer: "Guide my life deeper into praise for your love and mercy all around

me this day, O God. Amen"

Friday April 22nd God calls us to Witness

"Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said 'Go stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life.' When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching." Acts 5: 17-21. When the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, they were opened for a reason. The Apostles were set free, not to run to safety, but to be a witness to the work of God in Christ Jesus to the people of the temple. The love and grace we are given from God is not a private matter, it is an act of God that calls us out into the world to live out grace in love for our neighbor. So this is a call to witness to the world what God is up to both in us and all around. Prayer: "Spirit of the Living God, give me words to share your grace with this world today. Guide me to be your witness. Amen."

Saturday April 23rd Spirit Moves Us Out

"When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground." 1 Samuel 17: 48-49. When danger approached David he did not fall back but rather "ran quickly toward the battle line" so that he could encounter the great Philistine. He was not afraid of the Philistines size, reputation, or power because he knew that God was with him. His closeness to the Philistine gave his stone the power that it needed to defeat his great and powerful opponent. David shows that power of good is not dependent on size for strength. The smallest acts done

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with good intent carry great power in the world. We should never underestimate the power of the good God calls us out to do. Our calling is a series of faithful actions done for the sake of good in this world. Prayer: “O Great Spirit, strengthen me to do your good bidding this day. Draw me into your good actions this day. Amen.”

Sunday April 24th

The Promise Given...Living Out Our Witness

“Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

John 20: 19b-22. When Jesus appears to his disciples he fulfills the promise given to them with a gift. This was the Holy Spirit (the advocate) who would be with the disciples after Jesus ascends into heaven. This Spirit will give them peace in their hearts, a mission for the world, and a community to share. We see in Jesus’ interaction with the disciples the roots of the church community we share today. It begins with peace, faith, and trust in the very work of God around and with in us thru the Holy Spirit. It grows in the community we share and the message of peace that we take out into our world today. Prayer: “By your Spirit, O Lord, revive our faith to be your witnesses of love in this world today. Amen.”